Atty. Docket: 1481.0240000

Remarks

Claims 1-5 are amended herein to correct antecedent basis and typographical and grammatical errors. These amendments do not raise any new issues for consideration and do not change the scope of the claims. Accordingly, Applicants' representative respectfully requests entry of these amendments.

Outstanding Consideration of Documents Identified by Applicants

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was timely submitted on September 23, 2003, but Applicants' representatives have not yet received indication of consideration by the Examiner of the documents identified therein. New copies of the Forms PTO-1449 submitted with this IDS are included herein for convenience.

Machado Jr. *et al.* Appl. No. 09/641,394 Atty. Docket: 1481.0240000

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should there be any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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